(c) The import duty *of* natural rubber has been 25 per cent since 22-4-93.

(d) Yes Sir. Exporters of rubber goods are allowed to import NR against Advance Licensing Scheme. The quantity thus imported is as follow*:

Year	Qty.
1991-92 . . .	14,500 tonnes
1992-93 . . .	16,498 ..
1993-94 . . .	17,253 ..
1994-95 . . .	6,394 ..
(Upto Nov. '94 provisional)	

Import Of consumer goods

853. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gooverwaeitt propose to allow the import of selective consunaar goods; and

(b) if so, what decision, if any, has been taken by Government in this regard, Stating

(i) the conditionalities attached to tse consumer goods import;

(ii) its impact on the domestic prie structure of the consumer goods; and

(iii) its likely effect on the domestic production particularly on the small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): la) and (b) Under thy current Export and Import Policy, import of Consumer goods including consumer durables is not permitted except against a licence or in accordane with a Public Notice issued in this regard. The review of the Export and Import Policy is an on-going process and changes in it are made from time to time, as and when considered necessary.

Trade with 'East European countries

854, DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to expand trade wits East European Countries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the distinct advantages Government envisage in expanding trade with East European Countries; and

(c) what is the total value of trade (both exp-orts and imports) with the East European Countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

(a) The Government of India has a strategy to expand trade and economic relations with East European nations. The principal policy thrust to expand trade and economic relations with East European nations, which is being followed by the Ministry of Commerce and Govt. of India, is outlined below:—

(i) Signing of new bilateral framework agreements on trade and economic cooperation with the emergent countries of the former Soviet Union and East Europe and substitution of rupee payment trade by standard convertible currency trading agreements.

Ji) Evoiution of a more liberal credit policy vis-a-vis CIS states (credits worth US $ 55 million have already been advanced to Central Asian Republics):

(iii) Liberalisation of the countertrade regime with East European Countries;

(iv) Liboralisation, in consultation with RBI, of consignment exports and warehousing regulations;

(v) Identification and development of mote viable transport and transit routes—commissioning of a multisectoral study transit routes to Central Asia via Iran: initiatives on development of the port of Nevorossisk for trade with Russia;

(vi) Conclussion of • bilateral air traffic agreements and commencement of direct flights to the new capitals of CIS;

(vii) Encouragement to establishment of direct business contracts inter alia through participation in trade fairs etc..

(viii) Setting up of Joint Commismissions, Joint Committtes and holding of meetings;

(ix) In the special case of Russia, a number of initiatives have been taken which include;

(a) activation of the Joint Commission and holding of its successful first meeting followed by intensive follow-up;

(b) highlevel visits including by the Prime Minister and Commerce Minis, ter leading to intensive discussions with the top Russia nleadership;

(c) reiteration by the Russian side of the commitment to evolve a mechanism to use debt repayment fundr and import of tea, tobacco etc. on a long term basis;

(d) formation and meeting of a Subgroup on transport to address all transport related matters;

(e) impetus to Joint Venture Banks, etc.

(b) Some of the advantages which the Government enisages in expanding trade with East European countries, apart from the obious benefits in terms of foreign exchange earnings and stimulation to production and employment, can be summarised as under :—

(i) Vast potential and existing markets with traditional lingakes;

(ii) Hge reseres of mineral, material and other natural wealth which could be profitably exploited by India.

(in) In the case of tre CIS countries which are restructuring their institutions to meet he needs of he transition to market economy, there is an acute need for skilled manpower in various areas sdch as indutry, trade, banking etc. In view of the non-availability of such skilled manpower India could provide such services at competitie prices, to mutual advantage.

(e) A table showing the latest aailable figures on trade (both export and import) with East European Countries for the period April — November, 1994, is enclosed. (See below).

Statement

India's trade with cis/east europe countries:April-Nov. 1994

SOURCE: DGCIS Value: Rs. Lakhs

Country	EXPORT			IMPORT		
	Apr-Nov 94	Apr-Nov 93	Change %age	Apr-Nov 94	Apr-Nov 93	Change %age
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Armenia	..	..	..	..	18.96	..
Azerbaijan	22.04	12.10	+82.15	2.91	..	..
Belarus	286.99	312.23	—8.08	90.18	84.66	—6.52
Bertonia	793.83	262.09	+202.88	52.76	265.45	—80.12
Georgia	38.41	5.01	+666.67	41.20	651.18	—93.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kazakhstan . . .	1759·55	221.38	+694.81	801·66	306·10	+161·89
Kyrghyzstan . . .	..	27.74	..	..	..	..
Latvia	655.93	421.27	+55·70	2247·12	0·01	..
Lithuania . . .	235.05	79·59	+195.33	1·89	193·79	..
Moldova. . . .	409.47	45.68	+796·39	192·37	..	..
Russia	151605.02	111833.69	+35.56	77936.61	47268·58	+64·88
Tajikistan . . .	27.07	170.68	—84·14	528.95	234.24	+125.82
Turikmenistan . .	55.33	472.94	88.30	2633.72	415·90	+533.26
Ukraine . . .	7920·97	29640.69	—73.28	29647.08	23173·15	+27·94
Uzbekistan . . .	663·14	427·64	—55.07	1420.79	294.00	+383·26
Former USSR . .	164472.80	143932·73	—14.27	115597·44	72906.02	+58.56

India's Trade with CIS Last Europe countries: April-Nov 1994

SOURCC: DGCIS

(Value: Rs. Lakhs)

Country	EXPORT			IMPORT		
	Apr-Nov 94	Apr-Nov 93%	Change %age	Apr-Nov 94	Apr-Nov 93	Change %age
FR of Yugoslavia . .	271.17	15.40	—1660.08	240.40	38.12	+580·64
Slovenia	873·10	1128·68	—22·64	4594.31	805.07	+470.76
Croatia	1432.03	691.75	+112·80	381.28	4887·62	—92.20
B-H	..	5.07	..	..	1.90	..
Macedonia . . .	10.77	..	..	..	14.81	..
Former SFRY .	2627.07	1840·90	42·71	5214.99	5747.52	9.26
Czech Republic . .	6460.99	19165·00	—66·29	9320·77	883.74	+36.27
Slovak Republic . .	859.78	243 98	+252.40	724.74	882·06	—17·84
	7320.77	19408·98	—62.28	70705.51	7765.80	+30.13
Former CSFR						
Albania	16.32	37·16	—56·08	15.30	46.65	67·20
Bulgaria . . .	1066.50	744.55	—115.77	3724·67	6172.55	—39.66
Hungary . . .	3678.18	4392.01	16 25	3885.21	5639.67	—31·11
Poland . . .	13244.91	11247·24	—17.76	8736.89	4425.13	—97·44
Romania . . .	1939.76	4932.22	—60·67	6351·19	4601·69	—38.02
Rest of East Europe .	20485.67	21353.18	—4.06	22713.26	20885·69	8.75
TOTAL East Europe .	194906·31	186535.7	+4.49	153631.20	107305·03	+43·17